

# Reunion Attracts Hundreds Christmas Night

By DAVID L. DILLARD  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Sondra Hoddes said the holiday season is a special time for her because she gets to reunite with old friends.

Hoddes, a preventive treatment specialist who now lives in Virginia Beach, said she looks forward to coming home each year to be with family and friends.

"I enjoy coming home to meet old friends," she said. "It gives me a chance to see people I haven't seen in a long time and reunite with them."

Hoddes was one of nearly 800 people who met at the Best of Friends annual dance held Christmas night at the Benton Convention Center.

According to D.D. Adams, one of the event sponsors, the Best of Friends dance is held as a reunion for successful people from Winston-Salem to come home and see old friends and classmates.

"It's like a big homecoming that we have every year to bring people back home each year," Adams said. "This allows people to meet in one place and see each other instead of searching door-to-door trying to find them."

The annual Christmas dance has been held since 1979. Then it was sponsored by the Kimberly Park Tennis Club. Adams said the group split three years ago and now the event is being held by the splinter group called Best of Friends.

The gala affair also attracted native star athletes including "Happy" Hairston and former Atkins High School and Winston-Salem State University football star David "Bull" Johnson.

Hairston, a former professional basketball player with the

Detroit Pistons and the Los Angeles Lakers, said he comes home from Los Angeles every year to spend the holidays with his 84-year-old mother Ida Hairston.

"This is really a time for me to be with my family," he said. "My mother was the biggest influence in my life. So it's a wonderful time to be with her and my family."

Norman Brown, a graduate of Anderson High School, said he has seen the event grow from its early stages into a grand reunion. Brown has been a teacher in New York for several years and said he enjoys seeing old classmates from his alma mater Anderson High School. "It's just about everybody coming out and having a good time and seeing old classmates," he said.

"I've watched this thing grow into the major event that it is now. I haven't missed a year. It's something most of us look forward to."



Pictured above former basketball star Happy Hairston (right) enjoys spending time with his sister Sharon Miller and her husband Charles Miller. Below James Grace, (2nd from left) an organizer of Best of Friends said the event grows each year.



# UNCF Seeks Support

American Urban Radio Networks (AURN), the only African-American owned radio network in the nation, continues its support for UNCF by producing specialized promotional announcements and simulcasting the 15th Annual Lou Rawls Parade of Stars.

The star-studded event, to benefit 41 historically Black colleges and universities, is scheduled to take place Saturday, January 7, from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Since 1979, the Lou Rawls Parade of Stars has helped raise over \$110 million dollars for the 41 historically Black colleges and universities. With Lou

Rawls heading the parade of stars in Hollywood, Gladys Knight will host the telethon from New York's famed Apollo Theatre. Among the stars scheduled to appear are Boyz II Men, BeBe and CeCe Winans, Patti LaBelle, Gerald Levert, Anita Baker, CeCe Penniston, Daryl Hall, and a host of others all joining to inspire listeners to support the education of our youth.

AURN has over 250 affiliates throughout the United States and the Caribbean. Bureaus and sales offices are located in New York, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Chicago and Detroit.

# Lecture Suggest Neurological Deficit at Heart of Anti-Social

There is little denying that we are in the midst of an exponential rise in anti-social behavior among our youth. The question must be raised as to whether or not this proliferation of behavior—running the gamut from un-focused, counter-productive, and destructive to senseless violence, crime, and drug-use—is an avoidable development of human-nature?

In a lecture to be presented at the Forsyth County Public Library, presenter, Pender Madyun suggest a connection between our contemporary social-breakdown and a neurological deficiency in our youth in such a manner as to show how certain behavior or lack of behavior early in life results in neurological deficiencies (brain damage) which then causes human behavior to degenerate to the point that we observe the social ills plaguing us today. In the lecture Pender draws on Islamic knowledge as well as

contemporary social scientist Joseph Chilton Pearce to indite several common practices of modern culture as the primary contributors to this neurological damage.

He presents information to show that even for the majority of children whose parents were enlightened enough to spare them the devastation wrought in vitro by alcohol and drug abuse, this neurological damage begins at birth.

Continuing to draw on these ancient and contemporary sources, Pender asserts that God did not program the "crown" of His evolutionary development, the human being, for anything less than excellence and endless progress.

The lecture, "The Islamic Prescription For A Neurologically Damaged Generation," will be presented on Monday, Jan. 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the Forsyth County Public Library (main), 600 W. Fifth St. (auditorium).

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